

Towns of Cedar Run and Mayetta
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail
U.S. Highway 9, South of State Route 72
Cedar Run
Ocean County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1027

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TOWNS OF CEDAR RUN AND MAYETTA

HABS No. NJ-1027

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Location: New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, U.S. Highway 9, South of State Route 72, Cedar Run, Ocean County, New Jersey

Significance: Cedar Run and Mayetta are significant as early mill towns which developed around Cedar Creek in the eighteenth century.

History: Cedar Run and Mayetta, small towns just south of Manahawkin were probably first settled by farmers in the eighteenth century. In 1878, Woolman described the villages as "scattered neighborhoods" on the north and south side of Cedar Creek. The creek was the site of early industry, powering Macajas Willits's grist-mill and "a unique and handsome structure, used as a saw-mill and a hall."¹ Macajas Road, running from the mill to Cedar Bridge, connected the community with inland markets. Other roads, such as the Mayetta Road between Lamson Road and Warren Grove, and the Old Country Road linking Cedar Bridge to Manahawkin, were established long before the railroad arrived. During the 1870s when a building boom hit Long Beach Island and the first Tuckerton Railroad engine roared through the pines, Cedar Run and Mayetta contributed lumber and other services to the rapidly growing resort area.² In the process, both towns experienced increased development.

The Cedar Run Schoolhouse, built around 1895, once stood on Route 9 north of Cedar Run stream. In 1907, it was replaced by a new two-room building, now part of the Assembly of God Church. The original school building was moved to Mayetta where it has been remodeled into an auto parts shop.³ A row of vernacular Queen Anne and Victorian Gothic homes still face Route 9, forming a nineteenth century neighborhood near the schoolhouse. Similar homes, also constructed between 1880 and 1890, line Main Street in Cedar Run.

Along Route 9, the "scattered neighborhoods" have since become a seemingly continuous commercial strip blending into Manahawkin. Relief from the congestion can be found by a drive down Cedar Run Dock Road to the bay. The road curves through the marshlands of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge to a park and platform. Running through protected land, Dock Road still resembles the landscape traversed by nineteenth century fishermen and farmers.

¹ H.C. Woolman and T.F. Rose, Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast (Philadelphia: Woolman and Rose, 1878; reprint, Toms River, N.J.: Ocean County Historical Society, 1985), 38.

² "Ocean County Historical Sites Survey, Stafford," (Toms River: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1981), 3.

³ Carolyn Campbell, Chickaree in the Wall (Toms River: Ocean County Historical Society, 1987), 98.

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Sources: Campbell, Carolyn. Chickaree in the Wall. Toms River: Ocean County Historical Society, 1987.

"Ocean County Historical Sites Survey, Stafford." Toms River: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1981.

Woolman, H.C. and T.F. Rose. Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast. Philadelphia: Woolman and Rose, 1878; reprint, Toms River, N.J.: Ocean County Historical Society, 1985.

Project Information:

This project was sponsored by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (NJCHT) of the National Park Service, Janet Wolf, director. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert Kapsch, chief, under the direction of HABS historian Sara Amy Leach, project supervisor. Three historians completed the research during summer 1991: Field supervisor Sarah Allaback (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Alfred Holden (University of Vermont), and Camille Gatz (North Carolina). David Ames (University of Delaware) made the large-format photographs. Historian, Elizabeth Harris May (George Washington University), edited the HABS reports.